

A regular meeting of the Richland Borough Council was held on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room at the Richland Borough Building. The President being in the chair and the Secretary being present.

President Bricker called the Richland Borough Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Bricker completed roll call, Present were President Kelly Bricker, President Pro Tem Larry Hartman, Councilmembers Matthew Johnson, James Niethammer, Richard Strickler, Mayor Owen Landes, Solicitor Andrew George, Secretary Rebecca Schnoke, and Road Laborer/Water Technician Benjamin Becker. Also in attendance were Casey Kerschner and James Kinney from Becker Engineering. Absent was Vice President Mark Brubaker, Councilmember Robert Rittle, and Road Supervisor Dwight Belleman.

The President asked for a motion to approve the previous months minutes. A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Larry Hartman, to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on April 8, 2025; motion unanimously carried.

The President asked for a motion to approve the previous months workshop minutes. A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Richard Strickler, to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous workshop held on April 22, 2025; motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker opened the floor for citizens' and visitors' comments. There was one (1) person present.

Andrew Kriss – 34 N. Race Street – Will be addressed under new business.

The following Committee reports were presented to Council: Water Report, Highway Report, Property Report, Finance Report, Safety Report, and Personnel Report.

Water Committee – Nothing to report.

Recreation Committee – Park walk through with YSM, SLC, Becker Engineering, and the Borough scheduled for 5/16/25.

Highway Committee – Nothing to report.

Property Committee – Nothing to report.

Personnel Committee – Nothing to report.

Finance Committee – Nothing to report.

Safety Committee – Nothing to report.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Matthew Johnson, to accept the Committee Reports. Motion unanimously carried.

The following reports were presented to the Council: Mayor Report, Road Supervisor Report, Office Report, Solicitor Report, Code Enforcement, and State Police Report.

Mayor Report – No report submitted.

Road Supervisor's Report – No questions about the report. Benjamin Becker added that hydrant flushing is expected to occur the beginning of June, once the dates are known it will be posted in the Borough Office, on the Borough website, the Fire Company sign, at the post office, and a Rave alert will be sent. Benjamin Becker advised PennDOT has been notified about the pothole on Main Street in front of the Fire Company and the dip in the road on Main Street in front of the Union House.

Water Report – No questions about the report.

Office Report – No questions about the report.

Engineer's Report – Casey Kerschner reviewed the updates on the Engineer's Report, there were no questions about the report.

Solicitor's Report – No questions about the report.

Code Enforcement Officer Report – No questions about the report.

Police Report – No questions about the report.

MRJA Report – Meeting was held May 5, 2025, electronic copies of the monthly reports are on file and available for viewing upon request, the next meeting will be held June 2, 2025.

A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by James Niethammer, to accept the Officials Reports. Motion unanimously carried.

The Financial Reports for April 2025 were submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Schnoke. A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Richard Strickler to approve the Financial Report, and have it placed on file for Audit. Motion unanimously carried.

The invoices were presented and reviewed by Councilmember James Niethammer. A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Larry Hartman, to pay all the invoices submitted; Motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Richard Strickler, to ratify the bills paid; Motion unanimously carried.

The following communications were received:

- Weidle April 2025 Monthly Municipal Recycling Report → 5.57 Tons
- 3 Zoning/Building Permit Application Received
- 7 Zoning/Building Permit Issued.
- Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority → May 2025 Board Meeting Minutes.
- PPL → Supply prices to increase June 1st – Price to compare to will be 12.11¢.
- Comcast → Q1 2025 Cable Franchise Fee received - \$6,124.34
- PA Department of Transportation → 2025 Liquid Fuels Tax Payment received \$44,888.46

Old Business:

Water Projects Update

Elevated Water Storage Tank – Casey Kerschner from Becker Engineering provided the following updates.

Project Bids received & are significantly higher than estimated in 2023.

Three options at this time; Get additional PennVEST funding which will increase rate structure, Rebid the project & change parameters based on bidder feedback, or Change tank type from composite to spheroid. Council discussed these options and agreed that at this time requesting additional funding is the last resort.

Becker Engineering will continue to get feedback from bidders and manufacturers, gather additional information and prepare updated cash flow analysis for consideration before any action is taken.

Well No. 9 – James Kinney from Becker Engineering provided the following updates.

Project is underway, Project Contractor Kinsley Construction & sub-contractor for boring is L&N Zimmerman.

Located existing utilities, slightly realigned the new water line to avoid contact with existing water main.

Approximately 700 linear feet of pipe installed, progress map displayed for review.

Project is going well, structures at well site will not expected until June, and some night work is anticipated to minimize impact on customers.

Playground Project Update

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be held rain or shine on May 31, 2025, at 11:30 a.m., there will be a food truck, drink truck, and ice cream truck present.

Council discussed pavilion rental fees which would be put into a park maintenance fund for future park maintenance costs. The suggested fee is \$25.00 for residents, and \$50.00 for non-residents. The Solicitor is going to draft a rental agreement.

Richland Community Library is holding a Bluey themed Kickoff to Summer Reading program and is requesting to rent the pavilion and set up a bounce house for the event. Council discussed the request to set up a bounce house and potential liabilities. Council was excited about the event but decided due to the new grass needing time to establish the bounce house request was denied.

Sale of Leaf Truck

A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Larry Hartman to adopt Resolution 2025-18 approving the sale of Borough personal property – 2007 Freightliner Truck with leaf Vac and Box; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Larry Hartman to authorize advertisement for the sale of the 2007 Freightliner Truck with Leaf Vac and Box on Municibid; motion unanimously carried.

2025 Road & Alley Repairs

Two sealed bids were received & opened at the 4/2/25 workshop meeting

Russell Standard Corporation \$53,103.07

Martin Paving Inc. \$40,162.69

All bids were reviewed by Solicitor Andrew George with no issues found.

A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Matthew Johnson to approve the award of the 2025 Road & Alley Repairs Tar & Chip bid to Martin Paving Inc. in the amount of \$40,162.69; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by James Niethammer to approve to use Liquid Fuels funds to pay for the 2025 Road & Alley Repairs Tar & Chip project; motion unanimously carried.

New Business:

Richland Community Association

Andrew Kriss shared the dates for the 2025 movies & events.

Movies – May 24th, July 26th, and September 13th

Line Dancing – June 28th and September 27th

Harvest Day – October 25th

Andrew Kriss addressed Borough Council about some ongoing concerns regarding Spayd's Lane, and advised his attorney did not provide him with the paperwork he intended to present to Council. Mr. Kriss stated his intention in having Rich Raiders contact the Borough was to open communication and establish a Right of Way Agreement with the Borough ensuring the Borough's future use of the lane for access to its water facilities, he had no intention or desire to create any conflict or discord between the RCA and the Borough. President Bricker shared the communication received from Attorney Rich Raiders which was received as very aggressive and confrontational. Casey Kerschner of Becker Engineering presented a Right of Way agreement that was established and recorded in 1968, and the condition of the lane will not change as a result of the Borough's water tank project. Andrew Kriss stated that RCA has plans for the property and is trying to get everything in order, which is why the property was surveyed and is how the questions involving Spayd's Lane originated. Mr. Kriss apologized for things getting out of hand, it was not his intention, he was only trying to do the right thing. President Bricker advised going forward rather than involving attorneys and costing the RCA and Borough taxpayers money to contact the Borough with any questions or information requests first. After some conversation regarding this matter, all parties agreed that the Right of Way is in place and no action is needed by either party at this time.

President Bricker inquired what plans there are for the property since it was surveyed. Mr. Kriss advised the purpose of the survey was to know exactly where the property lines are, the RCA has a \$17,000 grant, however cost estimates for the previous plans are higher than anticipated and are currently not feasible, so current possible ideas include a Kick wall and Gaga Ball Pit which are both movable if necessary.

Millcreek-Richland Joint Authority

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Richard Strickler to approve to adopt Resolution 2025-19 amending the local pollutant limits of industrial wastewater discharge; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Larry Hartman to authorize execution of the indemnification agreement for application for highway occupancy permits concerning installation of subsurface facilities for pump station No. 2; motion unanimously carried.

Richland Borough Council – Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

President Bricker asked if there were any comments for the good of the Borough. With no additional matters presented, a motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Larry Hartman, to adjourn. Motion unanimously carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rebecca Schnoke,
Richland Borough Secretary